

INSPIRED EYE

CYRILL DUBUARD

INTERVIEW
BY OLIVIER
DUONG

Please tell us something about you, your life and interest etc.

My name is Cyrille Druart. I run my Architectural and Design agency in Paris, France.

This is my main job. I also travel in order to make pictures, several weeks a year.

I've been interested in Arts since my childhood. Living in Paris i spent a lot of time at the Louvre and those wonderful museums we have here.

So today my life is made of works on spaces through Architecture, and images through Photography and drawing. That's a great combination.

What inspired you to become a photographer?

I have always felt an attraction for Photography. Something was deeply exciting but i wasn't sure to be able to practice properly. My father offered me a Nikon camera in 2002 and i then started taking photos.

What age are you and at what age did you start your journey as a photographer?

I just turned 35. I started at 23 but really got into it around 25. So it has been 10 years of practice, that's not much... the journey has only begun.

Would you mind sharing some of the things you feel helped you along the way with your photography, (lessons, workshops, books etc)...and also some of the things that may have hindered you that you overcame on this journey?

It is very important to look at other photographer's work. Start from the beginning of photography, then modern masters, then present ones.

That's fundamental to me, when discovering some japanese photographers i felt very liberated. It validated some of my thoughts.

Also study geometry, abstract works (paintings, sculpture). I think all arts are related.

Music may influence your photography, in terms of rythm for exemple, or even in terms of colour.

Think about your distance, about the way you want to

show things. Questionning is essential.

If we are speaking specifically of photographers, which are the ones of the past and present do you admire?

I have to say i admire Japanese photographers a lot, Tomatsu, Sugimoto or Moriyama for instance. Their work is very creative. Brandt too. I like fashion photographers as well, Avedon, Newton.

What purpose does photography serve for you?

I use it to show how i see things. It's in fact a very personal process.

What Genre' of photography are you most comfortable working in?

I really try not to stick to one genre in particular. I take pictures of what moves me, whether it is landscape, someone's face or a particular place.

You may then group my photos in genres but that's really not my way of working.



When you work, are you working on different series or just finding photos that fit the way you feel at the moment?

I don't really think of series, or perhaps 2 or 3 images maximum in a row. I try to work on a continuous scale.

Can you describe a few of your trigger mechanisms that make you want to stop and shoot?

It can be specific lighting, a shape, or just something that moves me. I usually preset my camera and go.

What are your recurring themes?

An editor recently told me women, sensuality and urban moods were central in my work. I guess it's true..

What is the distance to your subject you are most comfortable with while working?

I used to stay away from my subjects. Things have changed and i don't hesitate to come closer now.

But I like to use diferent lenses in order to get into things, whether it's a 35mm, 50mm, or 200mm. There is no rule really.

What is your favorite Field of View?

That's hard to say, as sometimes i want to slightly distort or compress what i see. I choose my lenses in relation to the moment and what i have in mind. I like 35mm very much though.

What camera are you working with currently?

Today i use a Leica M6 and a Mamiya 6 for my personal work. Also My Nikon FM2, which was my first camera.

This combo works well for me. I tried many camera in the recent years, and ended up choosing those ones.

For my Architectural related work -and for fun- i use a Nikon d800. I also have a little Ricoh GR with me all the time.

Are you self-taught, educated or a little bit of both?

I am self-taught.





How do you feel about being photographed?

Although i don't mind too much, i can't say i really like it. Photoshootings annoy me a little. In the street i don't mind though. Doing the same to others, i can't really complain...

Do you like to work by yourself or to have someone with you? Please explain why.

I really love being on my own when out shooting. I usually listen to music which allows me to stay focus. When i travel with friends, i leave early in

the morning and walk around looking for interesting things. They know me and respect this. I can't stand getting stuck in a hotel room.

Do you have a preference for images as an analog or as a digital state?

I shoot film for technical reasons only. Nothing nostalgic or trendy.

The way film handles sudden change of luminosity is beautiful.

I preset my camera using scale distance and a specific

speed/aperture combo and i can focus on moments rather than technical aspects. B&W films give me full spectrum, no clipping.

When using my digital cameras it's not that easy. Digital is great for studio work where careful lighting is required, or when you have time to properly expose.

I also love the way film deals with transitions and contrasts. It's smooth, natural and delicate.

Where in the world are you located?

I live in Paris, France.





Where is your favorite place to work?

I love cities. So far my favorite place has been Tokyo.

The energy there is phenomenal. Japanese people are very creative and have this consciousness of doing something in the best possible way.

They are totally dedicated to their craft. I feel very close to them in that sense. They do care.

When you're feeling somewhat slow or lost, how do you find your way back to find inspiration to get working again?

I usually don't force myself. When i return from a photographic trip, i can't touch a camera anymore.

This usually lasts for a week or two. During that time i process my films and work on them on my computer.

This is perhaps the most exciting moment. Very diferent from the shooting in terms of feelings but for me that's where the thrill is.

Do you exhibit your work in any form?

Having recently decided to show my work, i am still gathering contacts.

I meet with people, talk, and try to understand the way things work. I am right now working on a book project with some publishers.



How satisfied are you in your current state in photography and what would you like to improve upon?

I can't say i am satisfied with my work. There are exceptions, but i am in fact almost always disapointed with myself and my images... I still feel the next image will be the good one.

I tend to be very picky at selecting my keepers. On a 36 frame roll, i choose 3, 4 photos maximum. I have stopped working on average images.

Using digital i don't shoot much more. Having too many choices in the end creates issues...

Any anecdotes you can share?

I am really not good at remembering that kind of things...

Any closing comments?

I will be in Miami and NYC in September, really looking forward to it !

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